

B.19 OUTER PLANETS RESEARCH

1. Scope of Program

The Outer Planets Research (OPR) program supports diverse scientific investigations that contribute to the understanding of the outer Solar System, ranging from the asteroid belt to the Kuiper Belt. The program includes both fundamental research and data analysis from NASA missions. The objectives of this OPR program include:

- Enhancing the scientific return from the Galileo, Voyager, Ulysses, NEAR, and Deep Space 1 missions by broadening scientific participation in the analysis of their respective data sets;
- Improving our understanding of the formation and evolution of the outer Solar System, including the giant planets, their satellites, and other small bodies;
- Defining the dynamical processes operating in the outer Solar System; and
- Providing further refinement of key Galileo mission datasets to improve their usefulness to the general scientific community.

In addition to investigations to enhance the science return from the missions identified above, an investigator may also propose tasks that involve one or more of the following activities, all of which must be relevant to the outer planets missions identified above:

- Development of basic theory, laboratory studies, and/or modeling relevant to the interpretation of mission data or the formation of giant planets, their satellites, and other small bodies in planetary systems;
- Correlative analyses combining data from the outer planets missions with other sources such as ground-based observations; and/or
- Research that seeks to place the results of these outer planets missions in a larger context of processes and evolution bodies in the outer planetary system

Conversely, the OPR program is not intended to support the acquisition of new observations nor support ground-based observing facilities except in cases where a compelling argument is made that the proposed primary focus of the investigation can significantly benefit from the acquisition and analysis of such data. In such cases, cost sharing with other programs is highly desired.

In order to enable the NASA Office of Space Science to properly evaluate the relevance of proposals submitted to its programs, as well as track its progress towards achieving its goals as mandated by the Government Performance Review Act (GPRA), all research supported by NASA's programs must now demonstrate its relationship to NASA Goals and Research Focus Areas (RFAs) as stated in the latest version of its Strategic Plan (follow links from the Web site <http://spacescience.nasa.gov/> see also the discussion in

Section I(a) of the *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA. Therefore, all proposers to this program element are asked to state their perception of this relevance in terms of the Goals, Science Objectives, and RFAs given in Table 1 found in the *Summary of Solicitation*. In particular, this program element is designed to help fulfill a wide variety of the RFAs for the Science Objectives 1 and 2 for Goal II of the Solar System Exploration science theme.

2. Sources of Information and Data

It is the responsibility of the investigators selected for this program to acquire any needed data. Therefore, before submitting a proposal, the investigator must determine that all data required for the proposed investigation are available. Mission data are available from the Planetary Data System (PDS) that can be accessed via the Internet at <http://pds.jpl.nasa.gov/>.

3. Programmatic Information

It is anticipated that approximately \$5M will be available for this new program element in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, with growth in subsequent years to allow regular selection of new proposals. Pending the submission of proposals of adequate merit, approximately 50 proposals may be selected in response to this Announcement. Investigations may be proposed for a one-, two-, or three-year period of performance.

For selected investigators an *Annual Progress Report* will be due no later than 60 days in advance of the anniversary date of the awards and is to be submitted as an attachment to an E-mail message to the Program Officer for this program. A revised budget for any remaining years of an approved award is neither necessary nor expected since the multiple year budget approved at the time of the original award is considered binding barring the development of unforeseen, extreme issues (see Section D.4 of Appendix D of the *Guidebook for Proposers* for further details).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The *Summary of Solicitation* of this NRA points out that NASA Headquarters now uses a single, unified set of instructions, entitled *NASA Guidebook for Proposers Responding to NASA Research Announcements*, that provides detailed guidance for the preparation and submission of proposals to most of its NRA's. By reference is the current edition, *NASA Guidebook for Proposers— 2004*, incorporated into this Office of Space Science solicitation; it is accessible by linking through the menu item "Helpful References" at the Web site <http://research.hq.nasa.gov/> or by directly accessing <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/nraguidebook/>. Proposers to this Program Element are urged to familiarize themselves with this document, in particular its Chapters 1, 2, and 3, before preparing a proposal. This NRA's

Summary of Solicitation also contains the schedule and instructions for the electronic submission of a *Notice of Intent* (NOI) to propose, *Cover Page/Proposal Summary/Budget Summary*), and the mailing address for the submission of proposals.

Questions about this program element may be directed to the cognizant Program Officer:

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